

## Message Text

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61/

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-25 DPW-01 IO-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01

ACDA-19 EB-11 STR-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 FEA-02

INT-08 AID-20 IGA-02 DRC-01 CIEP-02 /227 W

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R 200535Z FEB 74 ZEL

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1855

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

UNIT ALGIERS 0042

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JADDA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS SAIGON 2208

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR ADDED FIRST LINE OF PARA 5

AND RENUMBERING OF LAST PARA (PARA 11 VICE 17)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: GVN AND SAUDI ARABIA ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

REF: A) SAIGON 20840; B) SAIGON 21229

1. AT SPECIALLY CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE THIS MORNING FEBRUARY 20  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS VUONG VAN BAC ANNOUNCED THAT DURING  
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HIS TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA LAST DECEMBER (REFS AND B) THE TWO

GOVERNMENTS HAD AGREED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS, AND TO MAKE THIS AGREEMENT PUBLIC TODAY, FEB. 20.

2. IN INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT AND LATER IN ANSWER TO REPORTER'S QUESTIONS BAC DESCRIBED THE WARM RECEPTION HE HAD RECEIVED IN SAUDI ARABIA (SA) WHERE HE HAD GONE IN DUAL CAPACITY AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT THIEU AND FOREIGN MINISTER. HE ITEMIZED MEETINGS HE HAD HAD WITH KING FEISAL AND VARIOUS HIGH OFFICIALS, HONORS RENDERED TO HIM, EXCHANGES OF MESSAGE BETWEEN FEISAL AND THIEU, ETC. OTHER QUESTIONS OF INTEREST AND SUMMARIES OF BAC'S REPLIES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

3. Q. DID US AGREE TO THIS STEP WITHIN ITS POLICY OF DETENTE?  
A. GVN POLICY IS INDEPENDENT AND WE (GVN) MAKE OUR OWN DECISIONS ACCORDING TO OUR INTERESTS, NOT UNDER INFLUENCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES. US RESPECTS OUR INDEPENDENCE AND NEITHER ENCOURAGED NOR DISCOURAGED THIS STEP.

4. Q. WILL THIS STEP CHANGE GVN POLICY WITH REGARD TO ISRAEL?  
A. GVN POLICY IS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES ON BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT FOR INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. AGREEMENT WITH SA CONCLUDED ON THIS BASIS AND ON MUTUAL INTERESTS OF TWO COUNTRIES AND WILL THEREFORE NOT AFFECT GVN'S RELATION WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRIES.

5. Q. IS THE GVN NOW HOPEFUL OF CONDUCTING A BILATERAL DEAL FOR OIL? A. GVN AND SA WISH TO FURTHER DEVELOP FRIENDLY RELATIONS, WHICH INCLUDES ECONOMIC RELATIONS. BUT IT WAS NOT SOLELY FOR THE SAKE OF OIL THAT WE TOOK THIS STEP. COMMENT: WHEN PRESSED ON THIS, BAC SAID THAT OIL PROBLEM HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BUT DID NOT ELABORATE. END COMMENT.

6. Q. WHY HAS THE GVN NOT ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SO MANY OTHER COUNTRIES? A. WE WERE PREOCCUPIED WITH WAR. SINCE PARIS AGREEMENTS WE CAN GIVE MORE ATTENTION TO DIPLOMATIC ARENA AND IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT I TOOK MY TRIP LAST YEAR WHICH LED TO THIS GVN-SA AGREEMENT.

7. Q. CAN WE EXPECT ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH  
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OTHER COUNTRIES? A. MY TWO OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN TO STRENGTHEN ALREADY EXISTING DIPLOMATIC TIES AND TO ESTABLISH NEW ONES SO YOU CAN EXPECT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT.

8. Q DOES THE GVN NOW IMPORT OIL FROM SAUDI ARABIA? A. I WON'T TREASPASS ON THE DOMAIN OF THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

9. Q. WILL TECHNICIANS FROM SA COME HERE TO HELP EXPLORE AND

EXPLOIT GVN PETROLEUM SUPPLIES? A. AS WE HOPE FOR GOOD RELATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL FIELDS THAT IS IN THE REALM OF THE POSSIBLE.

10. Q. AS SA IS SO INFLUENTIAL IN ARAB WORLD COULD YOU COMPARE THE GVN'S AND THE VIET CONG'S EFFORTS IN THIS AREA? A. WE ALL KNOW IMPORTANCE OF ARAB BLOC. THE GVN ALREADY HAS RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA, MORROCO, AND JORDAN, AND WE ARE READY TO DO THE SAME WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF OUR PREVIOUSLY STATED CRITERIA. WE HAVE BEEN MAKING EFFORTS TO THIS END WITH THE RESULT BEING REVEALED TODAY. THE COMMUNISTS ARE ALSO MAKING EFFORTS BUT THE DIRRENCE IS THAT WHILE OUR ACTIVITIES ARE NOT AIMED AT HARMING ANYONE THEIRS ARE MEANT TO ADVERSELY AFFECT THE GVN.

11. BAC ENDED THE CONFERENCE BY SAYING THAT GVN-SA AGREEMENT HAD BEEN THE RESULT OF VOLUNTARY DECISIONS ON THE PART OF BOTH PARTIES AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO SECRET BARGAINS OR CONDITIONS PUT FORWARD BY EITHER SIDE. HE DECLINED TO ANSWER QUESTION ON POSSIBILITY OF A GVN-SA OIL DEAL OR ON JAPAN-IRAN OIL DEAL WHICH HE SAID HAD NOT INFLUENCED THE GVN'S ACTIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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